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April 1891

Wednesday April 1st 1891

4:20 in cave

Sampson's Palace Route - 2 trips

at 9:20 a.m. Elmer & I started in the cave to get specimens. Elmer stayed in the Post Office, while I went to the South East corner of the Amphitheater and got a load of fine box work. When I come out I found Elmer, Father & two visitors in the Post Office. Elmer & I left Father & the two visitors (man & woman) in the Post Office & come out because the house was left. We got out of the cave at 11:20 A.M.

At 1:00 P.M. Elmer & I started in the cave after specimens & was intending to go to the Amphitheater but when we get as far as Crystal Spring I stopped & get my load, while Elmer went on. When on my way out I met Father in the first room this side of Crystal Spring with two visitors (men) & he told me to hurry out, for Mr. & Mrs. J. C. West of Beaver Valley were here. Mr. West took a pick & shovel over with him to prospect with. He has good hopes of finding another lode as good as the West Cabin. I got out of the cave this afternoon at 3:20 o'clock.

Thursday April 2nd 1891

3:30 in cave

Sampson's Palace Route 2 trips

3:30 in cave

7:00

Monument Hall Route 1 trip

at 8:25 this morning I started in the cave after specimens while Elmer got up some wood. I got a load of box work in the S E by E corner of the amphitheater on the Sampson's Palace Route after getting nearly loaded up I went to the S E end of the room after some calcite crystals & got them in a crevice leading to from the S E by S

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corner of the Amphitheater, that, I think is another way to the "Fullen Flat" on the Leode Hall Branch, I got out of the cave at 10:05 a.m. -

at 12:30 p.m. I started in the cave after specimens, but when I got to "Devils Lookout" I worked out the passage at this end, with the sledge hammer. I got my load of specimens near there and got out at the entrance at 3:50 p.m. at 6:40 p.m. Elmer & I started in the cave after specimens. I left Elmer at the cataract & went on down to Milton Study (named by Miss Ada Brown of Art Springs) after my load. I got out of the cave at 8:30 p.m. with a good load. J. C. West came over from Beaver Creek this evening & brought some letters over for Father to take to town tomorrow. He said got a color of gold in a pan of gray wash today, the first pan of dirt that he ever washed.

Friday April 3rd /89/

at about 8:00 o'clock this morning I started over to J. C. West's place on Beaver Creek to prospect for placer gold. We first prospected a small draw about 20 rods from the house (went on up the creek to the right) but found nothing. We then went up the creek near the notice of the "Lost Robin" hole, and started to sink our shaft. We were down about 2 feet when Elmer came from the West to see what we were doing & only stayed with us a few minutes until he got ready to go down the creek. We struck what we thought was bed-rock at 2½ feet. It was clay. When we dug down about 2½ feet and struck some smooth wash boulders that indicated wash below. We went down about a foot farther (6" in all) & struck a good gray wash. I tried a pan of the dirt and found that it prospected very good.

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Saturday April 4th. 1891

7:50 in cave

Sompson's Palace Route 2 trips

Father went to Hot Springs early this morning on business. at 7:30 a.m I started in the cave after specimens. at the North East side of Milton's Study there is a passage leading to the North East, after I went on this passage about 15 feet I found a branch of the Sompson's Palace Route, with a good breeze in it but I did not follow it far because it was difficult traveling. I got out with a good load of specimens at 11:00 a.m.

at 1:15 P.M. I started in the cave after specimens. I broke out the path in & near Milton's Study, near where I got my load. I got out of the cave with a load of box work at 4:35 P.M. M. A. Moore arrived from Hot Springs at 5:30 P.M. J. B. West came over from Beaver creek this evening but did not stop long. Father got home from Hot Springs while we were eating supper.

Sunday April 5th 1891

This is the warmest day that we have had since January. M. A. Moore & Elmer left this place Hot Springs this morning & they will probably start from there tomorrow morning for the Crystal Banks on the Cheyenne River. They will go to the same place that I & M. A. Moore went in January. I went over to J. B. West's place on Beaver creek this afternoon & saw "Whiffle Tree Jim" & Bill Roe there visiting. Mr. West dug out a good spring yesterday.

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Monday April 6th 1891

Father went to Hot Springs, with J. S. West, of Beaver valley, this morning on business. The wind from the core has acted the most strange to me than I ever saw it act before. It was going in (light) this morning and kept getting lighter until about noon. It was then still for about 2 hours, when it started out violently, fairly making the big wheel buzz, but it stopped all at once in about (10) ten minutes after starting. It was then still until evening & was going in (lightly) at dark.

Tuesday April 7th 1891

about 9:00 a.m. I put the Harness on the horse and went after a log of pitch wood. I got the wood on the hill South of our spring. After getting the wood, I took a couple of 5 gallon cans, fixed on a yoke & went to A.M. Willard's spring for some water. When I was drawing the water from the tank, I heard something that sounded like the hum of a top, or the noise of a threshing machine, getting up ~~power~~ speed but it stopped in a few seconds. After I had drawn the water and was preparing to start home with it, (a little over half a mile), I heard the same noise again, but this time it lasted about three (3) minutes & then I knew it was the hum of the large wind wheel at Wind Cave. This afternoon I went upon the hill South of our spring & got another log of wood. When I got home I found J. L. Poirus here

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Wednesday April 8th 1891

1:45 in cave

Crystal Route..... 1 trip

1:30 in cave

Monument Hall Route... 1 trip

2:00 in cave

Wind River Circle..... 1 trip

at 8:00, a.m. J. L. Downs & I started in the cave to see Crystal Palace. We went there by way of the old stalactite rooms & came back by way of the main passage. We arrived at the entrance at 9:45 P.M. & did not go in the cave again until after dinner. at 12:30 M, J. L. Downs & I started in the cave to see Monument Hall. As we went in we lit up Red Hall with a red light. We also lit up Monument Hall with a red light.

We got back to the Post Office at 2:00 P.M. & then took the Wind River Circle, coming out by way of The Guides Discovery. I looked at a passage near "Turtle Room" that I intend to explore as soon as I get some body to help me do it. The passage between the Guides discovery & the South dressing room we named "Boulder passage" because there is a beautiful conglomerate of black flint, lime boulders, & red keel, (keel is a kind of stone that is rarely visible on the surface of the Earth). When I got up this morning it was raining but it soon turned into a wet snow, which it kept up all day (so father says) & we have about 4 inches of snow on the ground as a consequence. It snowed on the 12th day of April, 1890, about the same as it did today. J. L. Downs & Father went over to Capt. A.M. Willard's this evening, partly on a visit and partly on business. The business was probably about to see if the report were true, that Scholfield had been up to Custer City S.D., trying to sell wind cave. He will get scared out of his shoes

~~Friday~~ April ~~10th~~ ^{11th}

Friday April 10th 1891

2:10 incns

Crystal Route... 1 trip

at 8:53 M.A. Moore & I started on the cave
we got a load of stalaactites in the stalaactite
rooms on the North West of Crystal route. We
got out of the cave at 11:00 A.M. I took a stroll
over to J. C. West's this afternoon & found that
Charley Rose was sowing wheat

Saturday April 11th 1891

I went up the high hill above Capt
Willard's spring & got a good view
of the surrounding country. I saw that the
depression in earth undoubtedly caused
by Wind Cave is about 10 to 15 miles wide &
extends as far as the eye can reach from
the North East to the South West. I found a few
good agates while on the hill

Sunday April 12th 1891

We expected somebody here today on
account of the extra good weather but
nobody came. Just after dinner I started
down the gulch to see George Mac Manus
but when I got there, he not at home. On
my way back I gathered 13 samples of
sand stone & 3 samples of limestone. The
sand stone is all of different colors & shades.
I was examining the signs of coal about a
mile below here & think that there is a
powerful vein of coal some where under the
hills on the north side of Wind Canon. I
dressed out a few samples of sandstones.

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Monday April 13th 1891

I finished dressing the samples of sandstone that I got down the gulch yesterday, I got a few samples of porphyry & one sample of sand stone up the main gulch & dressed them out on a slab of sandstone. Father went over to J. S. Wests after the pick & shovel this afternoon & J. S. West brought him back with this team & wagon. Elmer was down the cañon today

Tuesday April 14th 1891

Having nothing else to do I went down to our stone quarry (about three quarters of a mile below here) & got a load of variegated sand stone of extra quality, but it is not very extra in quantity. (S.M.)

After dinner I took a hammer, chisel, and sack and went down to George, Mc, Mann's coal prospect. From there I went up a deep cañon to the left, in search for samples of sand stone, flint & conglomerate. I went up the cañon about 2 miles before it opened up into more level country. In one place I saw a thin layer of white sandstone between two thick ledges of yellow oil stone. (sandstone) In another place farther up the cañon I saw an immense specimen of boxwork in the sand stone and in this place also I saw more plainly than ever before, how boxwork is formed and also found that it can be manufactured out of some kinds of stone. I got home in the evening with 44 samples of stone (all different kinds)

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Wednesday April 15th 1891

Father & I fixed up the "Fairies Palace" and put a few other small specimens in with it & he took it to town with him (about) today. I got a few samples of flint & agate this forenoon. This afternoon I went down to our stone quarry & brought up my rabbit trap that has been down there ever since last December. I have over a hundred samples of stone in my geological collection now and I am adding more to it every day.

Thursday April 16th 1891

4:00 incase

Sampson Palace Route Trip

About 1 hour after dinner Elmer went over to Capt. Willard on a visit. He came back at 3:45 P.M. with the information that J. L. Downs & Mr. Wicker of Custer were to be here at about dark. Father got home at 6:00 P.M. with the horse. At 7:30 P.M. Mr. Ed. L. Grantham & Mr. Belle of Custer came to see the cave but Mr. Downs did not come on account of not being in extra health. At 8:00 P.M. Mr. Belle, Mr. Grantham, Father & I started in the cave. We got as far as Fallen Flats, on the Seede Hall Branch of the Sampson Palace Route. We also visited the place that J. L. Downs & I discovered to the North West of Fallen Flats. Mr. Grantham & I found a passage leading to the East of the middle of Fallen Flats. Mr. Belle expressed himself as well satisfied with his trip & the scenery in the cave was much better than he expected to see it.

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Friday April 17th 18911:00 in cave

We got out of the cave at 1:00 a.m. & went to bed immediately. Father went to Hot Springs with J. C. West this morning, & got back about 5:00 P.M. I went over to Capt. Wilks this afternoon to make an explanation of the map to Mr. Belle who is going to Chicago this afternoon, I now have 209 different kinds of rock in my geological collection.

Saturday April 18th 1891

I just had time to get wood enough cut to last a day or two when it began to rain (about 11:00 a.m.) & it is raining yet. I have staid in the house all day but Elmer & father have been gone most of the afternoon.

Sunday April 19th 18915:00 in caveCataract Route 1st trip

About 10:30 a.m. Joseph Duboniel & Mr. Oscar Huff came over from Willards to go in the cave. At 11:00 a.m. Mr. Huff, Mr. Duboniel, Elmer & I started in the cave. We were going on an exploring trip in the cataract route, and explored the passage that I discovered on the 8th inst. From near Furtle Room we started directly south, first turning to the right into a small room & then to the left into a large one. In this room I saw the most beautiful lime formation that I ever found. We named it the "Chamber of Frost" & it is a very suitable name, for single shreds of frost sometimes attain

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the length of 6 inches in this room, here we saw passages leading in every direction imaginable. We took an immense oven leading to our right. It kept getting smaller all the time until we had to crawl flat at about 100 feet from the chamber of Frost. We had to crawl about six or eight feet only until we came out into a nice little room, perhaps 20 feet in diameter and very irregular. There we saw a large passage leading to the left and also a large one leading to the right. Choosing the passage that led to the right I told my companion to wait until I saw whether it would pay to explore or not. I first went on a divide to the right and then down to the left. Here I found 5 or 6 small passages leading downward, these I determined to explore. Joe Dunmire joined me at this moment & helped me explore the passages. We found that they all came together in a small hole leading down. Here Joe called Mr Huff & Elmer and they brought the string. We all went down the hole and came into pretty room about 30 or 40 feet in diameter, nearly round and about 8 or 10 feet in height. We found a great many passages leading from this room but they were all too small to encourage traveling in. After having more difficulty than we expected to have, we all got up through the small hole in safety. Here Mr Huff & Elmer left Joe & I and went towards the entrance, while Joe & I determined to explore more. At the very spot that our party divided Joe found an oven leading to the South East with wind coming out of it went through it & found a very large room. I left my companion & started to explore it, alone not getting out of hearing of Joe because

we had stretched all of our strings. I found this room to be about 125 feet long in the longest place and about 55 feet wide in the broadest place that I could see. The room laid North-East & South-West, at the farther end of the room I found a passage leading to the South-East, but I did not follow it far because I was about out of hearing of my companion. When I got nearly back to where I started from I found some stalactae on the floor of the room and proceeded to investigate as to its source. I went around to the other side of the pile of rocks and began to climb up. As I climbed up the stream of stalactae became get more perfect & it finally down a small hole at the angle of 45° degrees, I forced my way up this hole the best I could & after while I came into a very small room that had a few small & curious stractites in it. I broke of three small ones and brought them out with me. After I came part way down I discovered a passage leading directly out over the large room that I had discovered but 15 minutes before. I went on my hands & knees in this passage for about 50 feet in hopes of finding some stalactites but did not find them. We then returned to where our party had discovered the second room on this trip in this room I left Joe & went on the large passage leading to the East to see what I could find. After I went about 75 or 100 feet in an open passage I came into an enormous excavation. On examination I found good floor and good conglomerate roof (arched). I advanced into the room about 200 feet before I could see the South Wall but in this place the walls were not over

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30 or 40 feet across. The roof would average about 12 feet high but it was irregular in height, at the place where I was then standing the roof was about 35 feet high & on the East Side of the raise there was a stream of water formation, about 8 feet wide streaming down, I was then about out of hearing of my companion & I returned to him without any trouble to speak of. We both went into the place that I had discovered & lit a small red fire in the room so that we could see it by a bright light. I then ^{went} down in the East end of the room and carved the following inscription on a limestone border:

Joseph Duhmiel, in
& block
A. E. Mac Donald Blaieters
discovered this room Shroobed
on the 19th day of March with red,
1891

South west corner
the entrance

We then concluded to start for daylight but just before we got to the Chamber of Frost, we found a hole that we wanted to explore, we climbed up about 30 feet but found nothing but hard climbing. When we got to the Chamber of Frost I thought that I would explore the passage leading North East of the room, I climbed up about 50 or 60 feet and found some curious paper work but the passage got too small for further exploration until it was a ^{pass} We got out of the cave at 4:00 P.M. & spent the evening at Capt. A.M. Willard's.

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Monday April 20th 1891

About 11:00 o'clock this morning, Mr Elliot Deputy Sheriff for Buffalo Gap came here and showed us a notice, notifying us to remove from the claim of J. Scholfield of that small (very small) berg. of course we laughed at the idea. but at 2:00 P.M. I started for Moss City with the notice in my pocket. I got to Moss City at 6:00 & put the horse in Moss' barn. I then went up to Thomas Proffers cabin and staid all night.

Tuesday April 21st 1891

I went to Custer this morning & there saw Ed, I. Granton, & J. L. Downs also H. B. Swaine but he did not recognize me. At 2:00 p.m. I started home coming by way of the big high park South East of Custer.

Thursday Wednesday Apr. 22nd

Father started to Hot Springs at 3:30 this morning, but this was useless because Mr. Moor did not get started West until after noon (so father told me). I believe he is starting to Utah or Nevada or most likely to the place where there is the richest mines as he is (I understand) going out on a prospecting tour. After dinner I concluded that I would try my hand at snoring a prairie dog. I went to the town that is in Capt Willard's pasture but got left after waiting about three hours. Father returned the Springs with J. B. West.

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Thursday April 23rd 1891

Not having any else to do this morning I commenced cleaning the yard in front of the house. I got through at 3:00 P.M. & to my estimation I done a good job. Father & I then started on a prospecting trip & explored the cañon South East of us. When we got down to the Delta we made up our minds to go on down to George Mc Mann's as it was only a half mile. We went down there & luckily found him at home. We got home at sundown. I got a few samples for my "Geological collection of every kind of stone".

Friday April 24th 1891

Elmer went over to Capt. Wilber's this morning & about the time I thought that he would be back, I shouldered the pick & shovel & started over to Beaver Valley (D & West's place), with the intention of working an hour or two on the Lost Cabin lode No. 1. When I got over there I put off working at the mine until it was some cooler, so I helped Mr West plant potatoes until about 2:30 P.M. We then went up to the mine, I first tried the placer clay that I found & threw away on the 3rd day of April 89 & discovered a new batch in the placer mining of the Black Hills. There was a coat of Verdigrase in the bottom of the pan & indications of lots of gold but the Verdigrase had floated it off. We then went up to our stone prospect & found that the ledge is rich in Galena (silver bearing), I don't know in the moonlight.

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Saturday April 25th 18912:30 in caveSampson's Route Trip

After breakfast this morning Father got the horse advent to Hot Springs. At about 8 o'clock this morning I went out on the hills in search of stone as usual, at 8:30 P.M., Johnnie Rauer, Mr Reeves, and two Dead-wood gentlemen came in from the north. I went down to the barn to show them where to put their horses & when we got down to barn we found Father & Mr Gorden of Beaver Valley there. At 9:30 P.M. the four visitors started in the cave & went the main part of the Sampson's Palace Route.

Sunday April 26th 18915:00 in cave (2:30 in cave) Sampson's Palace Route

At 10:00 A.M. I started in the cave with Underhill & 5 other gentlemen from Hot Springs. We went the Side Hall Branch & got to the first room this side of Side Hall. We got out at 3:00 P.M.

I and the cover outfit got out at 2:30 A.M.

Monday April 27th 1891

I went over to J. C. West's this morning to do some staking (mineral), we got several stakes put up this forenoon & Elmer came over to help us this afternoon. George Mae Manus was over about noon to see how we was getting along & to hunt up his axen also. we got a commencement of 9 claims staked & all showing good mineral, we got home after dark.

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Tuesday April 28th 1891

I & Mr. West have been staking claims on the "Lost Robin" group today and this evening. We found a rich gold lode, lying west of the Magpie & Wind Splitter lodes. I met Mr. J. D. Davis & John Seavers this afternoon. There is a fair prospect of an excitement over our find which is rich in silver & gold. When I got home tonight (after putting the horse in the barn that Mr. West let me ride over) I found a visitor from Kimball's Mill/pond here on a visit & to see the cave. Mr. J. B. West & I located the following lodes today: Pactolus, Wind Splitter, Native Silver, Caribou, & the Magpie.

Wednesday April 29th 1891

I discovered a vein of gold ore on the Mount Hecla lode this forenoon & also located the Honkey, Blue Bird, & Yellow Jacket. today Father came over about noon & went up the gulch with I & Mr. West to see what I supposed to be the remains of a 47ers camp.

Thursday April 30th 1891

Father & J. B. West went to Hot Springs this morning & returned this evening. I went over on the hill North West of Mr. Adams this afternoon. T. L. McAdam was over on a visit this evening.

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— monthly review —

Trips in care	16
Hours spent in care	49:25
Average time of trips	3 $\frac{12}{192}$


 Sampson's Palace Route
 
 11 trips